

Bath shipyard strikers discuss tentative deal, strike still on

BY VED DOOKHUN

After seven weeks of a bitter strike against demands by Bath Iron Works bosses for concessions that would weaken their union, International Association of Machinists Local S6 negotiating committee and the company reached a tentative agreement.

Voting is set for Aug. 21 to 23, giving strikers time to read and consider the new contract, and to ask questions or state their opinion. The strike will continue at least through the vote.

The central issue in the strike has been the bosses’ demand for an increase in the number of nonunion contract workers they can bring in to do work union shipbuilders normally do.

“The proposed contract seems pretty good,” striker Tiffany Briggs told the *Militant* in a phone call. “There’s a limit on how long subcontractors can be used.”

The unions summary of the proposed agreement says it will allow bosses some flexibility for the remainder of 2020 to catch up on production missed during the strike, but says “subcontracting will be phased out at the end of the year.” There’s also a no layoff clause for 2020.

“The strike was effective, we proved our point and will not be bullied by the company,” Briggs said.

The Bath shipyard is a division of

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Fight for a union on every job site, and a labor party



SWP presidential candidate Alyson Kennedy, at center, and supporters file over 2,000 signatures in Olympia to be on the ballot in Washington. Inset, press coverage on filing.

Fight for workers control of production and safety

Alyson Kennedy, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for president, issued the following statement, Aug. 12.

The Socialist Workers Party 2020

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY STATEMENT

campaign — Alyson Kennedy for president and Malcolm Jarrett for vice president — is the only campaign that joins and champions the struggles

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SWP wins support, files for ballot in four more states

BY EDWIN FRUIT

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Winning support from thousands of working people, Socialist Workers Party campaigners filed nominating petitions to put the party’s presidential ticket, Alyson Kennedy and Malcolm Jarrett, on the ballot in New Jersey, Tennessee and Washington state over the past week.

The party was informed Aug. 12 it was on the ballot in Louisiana after Kennedy filed the necessary papers.

Party supporters are still in the middle of collecting signatures need-

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Port explosion fuels protests against gov’t in Lebanon

BY TERRY EVANS

Long-standing outrage among working people over a deepening economic and political crisis in Lebanon boiled over following a massive explosion Aug. 4 on the docks in Beirut. It killed at least 158 people and wounded over 6,000. For days after the blast thousands joined protests, with the largest taking place Aug. 8 where demonstrators called for the government to resign, chanting, “Leave, you are all killers.”

Two days later Prime Minister Hassan Diab and his government resigned. Top government posts are divided up along religious lines, with the capitalist political parties associated with the three largest groups, Shiite Muslims, Sunni Muslims and Maronite Christians assigned the top posts. Hezbollah, which is backed by Iran’s rulers, has been the dominant political and military force in the government.

Relatives of those killed in the explosion addressed participants in the Aug. 8 action, while many in the crowd held up pictures of those slain. Some carried gallows, saying they were to hang the country’s politicians, including Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah.

“The police fired at me,” Younis Flayti, a retired army officer, told Reuters at the protest. “But that won’t stop us from demonstrating until we change the government from top to bottom.”

“It’s all the politicians,” protester Sha-

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Nebraska meatpackers, union speak out in battle for job safety



Steps by bosses at Smithfield, above, may “make companies look good,” but don’t protect workers, meatpacker Geraldine Waller, inset, told July 28 protest in Lincoln, Nebraska.

BY JOE SWANSON

LINCOLN, Neb. — In the face of a widespread outbreak of COVID-19 in meatpacking plants in Nebraska, workers are speaking out, demanding that bosses slow down the line speed, increase the distance between work stations and improve ventilation, to

protect workers’ health. At least 21 meatpackers have died, 223 have been hospitalized and hundreds more have gotten sick in the state.

Tyson Foods, Smithfield Foods, JBS Smith and Cargill packing bosses run beef and pork plants throughout

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After prison ban in Pennsylvania is revoked, Florida prison bars ‘Militant’

BY SETH GALINSKY

In a victory for the rights of workers behind bars and freedom of the press, the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections on Aug. 3 overturned a ban on the *Militant* at the Camp Hill State Correctional Institution. Five days later, the *Militant* received notice from authorities at the Florida State Prison in Raiford, Florida, that they had impounded issue no. 30.

Florida officials pointed to an article in that issue headlined “Prisoners Demand Release from Overcrowded Jails.” The article reported on a peaceful protest by inmates’ family members in California demanding the state government release prisoners in the face of the spread of coronavirus throughout the system. Prison officials claim the article, “is dangerously inflammatory in that it advocates or encourages riot, insurrection, rebellion, organized prison protest, disruption of the institution, or the violation of the federal law, state law, or De-

partment rules.”

Prison authorities in Florida have a history of impounding the *Militant* in recent years, which the paper has fought

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—On the picket line, p. 7—

Sugar workers in Iran strike since June over unpaid wages

Protests boost interest in books on working-class politics, history

BY JIM ALTENBERG

“When social protests pick up, people start to read more about working-class struggles,” Jim Kendrick, from Kansas City, Missouri, told the *Militant*. Kendrick is one of dozens of volunteers across North America working to get Pathfinder books into bookstores and libraries. Pathfinder publishes books by Socialist Workers Party and other revolutionary leaders on working-class history and politics.

In mid-June sales volunteers in the U.S. and in Canada began a special six-month effort to win 100 new bookstore and library orders. The volunteers are approaching both existing and new customers, including in smaller cities and towns, and rural areas.

They have found a wide interest in the range of Pathfinder titles, at a time when working people are in the midst of a developing worldwide social and economic crisis, and discussing and debating the causes and a solution.

Many stores are not yet open for readers to browse, but a number are filling internet and phone orders for books. Sales by bookstores slowed considerably in the spring because of government-ordered business shutdowns during the pandemic. But some store owners report that things began to change after police in Minneapolis killed George Floyd and protests broke out around the world.

Since then, orders for titles on the history and lessons of the fight against racist discrimination have grown tremendously.

James Fugate, co-owner of well-known Eso Won Books in Los Angeles, told the *Orange County Register* that

online sales had been sort of slow when they reopened May 27. Then on Saturday, May 30, in the wake of Minneapolis cops killing George Floyd, something unusual happened, Fugate says.

“On a good day, an incredible day, we’d get maybe 25 orders,” he said. “That Saturday, we must have had 400 orders. Sunday, we had maybe close to 900 orders, and Monday, about 2,300.” Eso Wan carries Pathfinder titles.

Los Angeles volunteers Nick Castle and Betsy Whittaker visited a Black bookstore owner in nearby Long Beach who had just reopened. She said she “needed some of our books right away. People were lined up around the block.”

Kendrick told the *Militant* he has been calling bookstores across Missouri, Kansas, and as far away as Texas and Louisiana. He reached one in New Orleans, which ordered 125 books, including titles by Malcolm X and *Are They Rich Because They’re Smart?* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes.

Malcolm X emerged as the most powerful voice speaking out against racism and for Black rights in the 1950s and ’60s, first as a leader of the Nation of Islam. He broke with the Nation as his political outlook broadened, becoming in the last year of his life, Barnes says in *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*, “the authentic voice of the forces of the coming American Revolution.”

In Canada, like in the U.S., anti-racist protests have taken place in small towns and rural communities, as well as large cities, Rosemary Ray reported from Hamilton, Ontario. She called a bookstore 50 miles west in a small town of



Los Angeles Times/Julia Wick

Eso Won Books co-owner James Fugate talks with customers in Los Angeles. Protests against cop killing of George Floyd led to jump in sales of political books. Supporters of Pathfinder Press are campaigning to increase distribution of books by SWP leaders, other revolutionaries.

12,000. “People want to get books on racism,” the owner told her. Ray took a phone order for Pathfinder’s titles by Malcolm X, and plans to visit the store.

“These smaller stores are also in tune with the times,” she said.

One store in Kansas City placed a large order for different Malcolm X titles; as well as for *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power; How Far We Slaves Have Come!* by Nelson Mandela and Fidel

Castro, and other books.

A store in Texas placed a large order, including titles on the Cuban Revolution and by Thomas Sankara, the leader of the 1983-87 popular revolution in Burkina Faso. And orders for the new edition of *The Jewish Question*, by Abram Leon, about the origins and character of the working-class fight against Jew hatred, are also beginning to come in.

We’ll keep readers posted on the results of the sales campaign.

SWP ‘stimulus’ appeal at \$143,600, more to come

As late and delayed “stimulus” payments continue to be sent out by the government, the Socialist Workers Party’s special appeal increases. In the last two weeks \$5,000 came from six people, bringing the total to \$143,600 from 131 contributors!

Laura Anderson from the Albany, New York, area wrote a note with her contribution: “I am excited about the openings to build the Socialist Workers Party. The work to do this is necessary and enjoyable. Hope the contribution helps on this road.”

As of the writing of this column, talks between the Democrats and Republicans on a second Congressional “stimulus” bill have stalled. Another such payment of whatever amount, if passed, will be done very grudgingly by Congress: “*They*” won’t work if “*we*” give them money. But if it comes, the SWP “stimulus” appeal can expect an enthusiastic second round of donations.

The many contributors over the last months have created a highly leveraged stake, capital, for the SWP’s long-term historic work of building a proletarian party as the crisis of capitalism and the class struggle unfold. To build a party that will organize workers and their allies in their tens of millions to end capitalist exploitation and rule, and its brutal consequences, and to join hands with toilers worldwide to build a new social order based on human solidarity.

If you’d like to donate from your government payout, send a check to the Socialist Workers Party at 306 W. 37th Street, 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018, earmarked “Special Fund.” The *Militant* will keep readers updated.

— JANET POST

THE MILITANT

Defend freedom to worship!

On July 24 the U.S. Supreme Court let stand a Nevada order that sharply restricts church attendance while allowing casinos and other businesses to admit up to 50% of capacity. The ‘Militant’ defends freedom to worship and political rights written into the Constitution.



Calvary Chapel in rural Nevada challenged state restrictions on freedom to worship.

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Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant*’s views. These are expressed in editorials.

Protesters: Prosecute cops who killed Breonna Taylor!

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Growing refusal among working people to accept police brutality is propelling support for the arrest and prosecution of the Louisville, Kentucky, cops who killed Breonna Taylor. But five months after the emergency-room technician was gunned down in a “no-knock” break-in at her apartment, authorities are still refusing to charge the three cops who carried out the killing.

Demonstrators rallied in Louisville Aug. 8 to honor Taylor and mark the sixth anniversary since cops shot and killed unarmed Michael Brown, a Black teenager, in Ferguson, Missouri, in 2014. The action, organized by the New York-based Until Freedom group, attracted some 200 people. Among those joining the protest was Taylor’s sister, Juniyah Palmer, and Michael Brown Sr., the father of Michael Brown. “I’m very grateful to be here and memorialize Breonna Taylor,” he told the rally. Neither state nor federal authorities have charged Darren Wilson, the cop who killed Brown.

In New York City the following day, hundreds marched up the West Side Highway to Central Park chanting “Justice for Breonna Taylor!”

Reflecting the support the fight is drawing, Oprah Winfrey has placed a picture of Taylor on the cover of the September issue of “O, The Oprah Magazine,” the first time in 20 years that Winfrey herself will not be featured in that spot.

The picture of Taylor from the magazine cover is displayed around Louisville on 26 billboards — one for each year of Taylor’s life. “Demand that the police involved in killing Breonna Taylor be arrested and charged,” the billboards read.

For two months after Taylor was slain her family’s efforts to press authorities to explain what happened received little media attention. That changed after protests swept cities and small towns in the wake of the cop killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis. Demonstrations were held daily in Louisville for more than 70 days and actions nationwide demanded the officers who killed Taylor be charged.

On March 13 three plainclothes cops — Myles Cosgrove, Brett Hankison and Jonathan Mattingly — broke down the door to Taylor’s apartment in their late night raid. Her boyfriend, Kenneth Walker, thinking they faced a break-in, fired one bullet that hit one of the cops in the leg. The cops then opened fire, shooting over 20 rounds into the apartment, killing Taylor.

Taylor was alive for at least five minutes after the shooting, but the cops provided no medical assistance. Walker was arrested and charged with attempted murder, but when public attention and protests began the charges were dropped.

Authorities try to bury the facts

No time frame for concluding the state’s “investigation” of the killing, headed by Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron, has been set. Authorities hope to drag out the probe, shoving the facts about Taylor’s killing under the rug, while pro-cop forces argue the of-

ficers should go scot-free.

Cops and state officials, however, have had no qualms about arresting over 500 protesters in actions in Louisville against Taylor’s killing.

Since May 28 the Louisville Metro Police have also spent over \$300,000 on pepper balls, chemical grenades and foam bullets for use against protesters. And cops announced Aug. 9 they would try to prevent protesters from marching on streets and restrict them to sidewalks.

“We should protest in a disciplined way,” Louisville Walmart worker Dorothy Webster told the *Militant* Aug. 10. But “by now there should be some kind of charges. The police should go on trial and they can plead their case.”

Cameron is also preventing the public release of Taylor’s autopsy report, as well as other information related to police radio recordings about her death.

Philadelphia: Political fight breaks out over Jew-hatred

BY JANET POST

PHILADELPHIA — The ugly face of Jew-hatred today and how to combat it has become a burning political question here over the last month.

On July 23 Rodney Muhammad, president of the Philadelphia NAACP, minister at Nation of Islam Mosque No. 12 and a former paid political consultant to Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney, posted a virulent anti-Semitic image on his Facebook page. It pictured on the sleeve of a jacket a grinning Jewish man wearing a yarmulke rubbing his hands together. Emerging from the sleeve is a bejeweled hand crushing down a mass of downtrodden people.

Next to the drawing is a quote, “To learn who rules over you, simply find out who you are not allowed to criticize.” It’s attributed to the French philosopher Voltaire, but was in fact written by white supremacist and neo-Nazi Kevin Strom.

On top of the graphic are photos of Black celebrities Ice Cube, Nick Cannon and DeSean Jackson, who have all come under criticism for scapegoating Jews for the problems of Blacks in the U.S.

“This vile behavior from a civic leader is incredibly dangerous for Jewish communities around the world,” the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia responded, calling for Muhammad to resign as president of the NAACP. The Anti-Defamation League, Philadelphia



Twenty-six billboards in Louisville from Oprah Magazine demand charge cops who killed Breonna Taylor.

The *Louisville Courier Journal* interviewed several “crime law experts” to try to exonerate the cops. “The officers should not be charged with murder or manslaughter because they had a legal right to defend themselves once her boyfriend shot at them,” the paper reported the “experts” argue.

One of the three cops — Hankison — was fired after chief cop Robert Schroeder accused him of blindly firing 10 rounds into Taylor’s apartment, “without verifying any person as an imme-

diate threat or more importantly any innocent person present.” The other two cops are on administrative leave. None of the three cops recorded body camera video of the assault.

“Protesters in Louisville and other cities and towns nationwide continue to press this fight and my campaign stands with them,” Maggie Trowe, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate in Kentucky, told the *Militant* Aug. 10. “Arrest and charge the three cops involved in killing Breonna Taylor now!”

Muslim-Jewish Circle of Friends and the Philadelphia Urban League have asked the NAACP to hold him accountable.

One leader of a Jewish organization, Rabbi Linda Holtzman of the Tikkun Olam Chavurah, which describes itself as a group founded on Jewish beliefs that pursues social justice, tried to excuse Muhammad’s actions. “I think the Black community is justly angry at the Jewish community,” she said.

Marcia Bronstein, regional director of the American Jewish Committee, wrote to the NAACP Pennsylvania State Conference saying, “Complacency about antisemitism compromises the integrity of the fight against racism.”

Philadelphia Sheriff Rochelle Bilal, former secretary of the NAACP chapter, says Muhammad should remain president. She said Jews don’t “fight against nobody unless it’s their political season.”

“The Socialist Workers Party condemns Jew-hatred in all forms — from both the left and the right, including that by Rodney Muhammad, and others,” Osborne Hart, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress in Pennsylvania’s 3rd C.D., said in a statement. “It’s a deadly danger for all working people.”

DeSean Jackson, a player for the Philadelphia Eagles football team, had watched a video of Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan’s July 4 address, where he called Jews “Satan.” “And it is my job now to pull the cover off Satan so that every Muslim,” Farrakhan said, “picks up a stone, as we do in Mecca.”

“I hope everyone got a chance to watch this!! Don’t be blinded. Know what’s going on!!” Jackson posted on Instagram. He then posted a quote, falsely attributed to Adolph Hitler: “Because the white Jews know that the Negroes are the real Children of Israel and to keep America’s secret the Jews will blackmail America. ... Their plan for world domination won’t work if the Negroes know who they were.”

After a firestorm of criticism, Jackson took down the post. He has since agreed to an invitation from a 94-year-old Holocaust survivor to visit Auschwitz.

Comedian and TV personality Nick Cannon attended Farrakhan’s speech, saying afterwards African Americans

were robbed of their birthright by the Jews. He also later apologized.

The rapper and actor Ice Cube has tweeted a graphic that depicted the Star of David with a black cube in its center, followed by pictures of black cube sculptures in Manhattan and other major cities, implying secret Jewish control. He has refused to back off his posting.

NBA legend and critic of racist discrimination Kareem Abdul-Jabbar responded to Ice Cube and others saying he was shocked to see such little outrage over displays of anti-Semitism amid the “new Woke-fulness in Hollywood and the sports world.” Ice Cube responded, calling Abdul-Jabbar a “Judas.”

While anti-Semitism is at a low ebb in the working class, there has been an increase in attacks against Jews in the last few years. In 2019, according to the Anti-Defamation League, there were “a reported 2,100 acts of assault, vandalism, violence or harassment against Jews, the highest number of anti-Semitic incidents in the U.S. since the organization began tracking them in 1979.”

Anti-Semitism, enemy of all workers

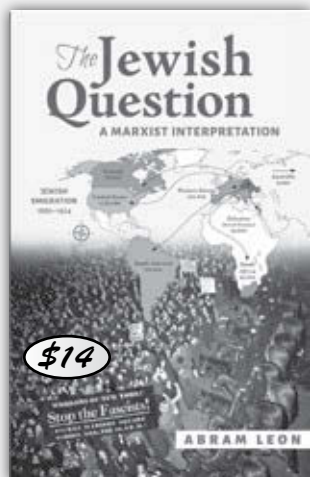
“Anti-Semitism is an attack on all Jews, but it also puts a dagger into the heart of the fight against racism and all struggles by working people that we see today,” SWP candidate Hart said.

“Police brutality, discrimination in housing and hiring, and racist attacks that Blacks face today aren’t caused by Jews,” he said. “This is a lie that only serves the interests of the capitalist rulers, who profit from this discrimination.

“Jew-hatred grows and gets support from the capitalist rulers when the crisis of their system leads to rising mass struggles by working people. While that isn’t happening today, the deepening capitalist economic, social and political crisis working people face shows that day will come.

“The fight against Jew-hatred is a working-class question, and a key question in the fight for the rights of African Americans,” Hart continued. “The only way to end anti-Semitism — and the oppression of Blacks — for all time is to eliminate this capitalist system of oppression and exploitation.”

New edition from Pathfinder:



pathfinderpress.com

SWP files for ballot in 4 states

Continued from front page

ed to file for ballot status in Minnesota. In each state they're finding workers who back the party's fight to get on the ballot and many who are interested in learning more about and discussing its fighting working-class campaign platform.

Kennedy, a cashier at Walmart in Dallas, and Jarrett, a cook in Pittsburgh, have already been certified for the ballot in Colorado and Vermont. Along with 22 Socialist Workers Party candidates for U.S. Senate and Congress around the country, they are the only voices in defense of the interests of workers and farmers in the upcoming elections.

SWP campaigners get a serious hearing when they say workers need their own party, a labor party, a union in every workplace, and workers control of production. They explain why working people are capable of fighting in our millions to replace the rule of the capitalist class with a workers and farmers government.

Kennedy filed over 2,000 signatures — double the requirement — at the state capital here Aug. 7 to place the working-class ticket on the ballot in Washington.

Washington election official Stu Jensen received the petitions at a table set up outside the secretary of state's office. He said he had received several letters urging the state to put the party on the ballot. Jensen said the certification process will take a week.

Among those sending letters of support for the party's right to be on the ballot are Dan Coffman, past president of International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 21, Longview; John Martinez, a long time officer of the American Federation of Teachers union at Seattle Central College; John Waller, secretary of the Seattle Cuba Friendship Committee; Mark Downs, a former executive board member of ILWU Local 19 in Seattle; and Heather Jay Mclean-Riggs, former president of the Senate, Seattle Central College, AFT Local 1789.

The Spokane *Spokesman-Review* ran an article on the filing the next day headlined, "Socialist Candidates Want Working Class in Control." The article reported that Kennedy and Jarrett's campaign "focuses on building a labor party that represents working people."

"We are capable of changing things in this country," Kennedy said.

"The party calls for a government-funded program to provide jobs," noted the *Spokesman-Review*, to build hospitals, roads and public transportation. "With the working class in control, Kennedy said she believes many issues that currently exist would be eradicated."

On July 25 in Renton, campaign supporter Dean Peoples met Tiernasha

Maynard — one of many who enthusiastically signed the petition. "I'm involved in community work to register young people to vote," she said. "But I have to ask myself — to vote for what? This campaign is actually something that is meaningful and that is inspiring."

Tennessee over the top!

BY SUSAN LAMONT

NASHVILLE, Tennessee — Socialist Workers Party presidential candidate Alyson Kennedy and campaign supporters turned in 810 signatures here Aug. 11, nearly triple the requirement for the Tennessee ballot.

Some two dozen campaign supporters won a lot of support during 16 days of intense campaigning. They talked to several thousand workers, farmers and small proprietors in 25 of the states' counties, selling 67 *Militant* subscriptions, 104 copies of the paper and 36 books by SWP leaders and other revolutionaries.

Felicia Allen signed when Maggie Trowe, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate from Kentucky, knocked on her door in Smyrna. Trowe pointed to the party's call for workers to fight for a union movement in every workplace. Allen replied that when she worked at a retail store, "they told us during orientation, 'If you join a union you'll be fired.'"

Bosses threaten that in other workplaces too, Trowe replied, "but that doesn't stop workers wanting a union and looking for ways to defend themselves."

"Unemployment benefits are not enough to live on," Allen said. "My husband has to work 12 hours a day to make it." After Allen and Trowe discussed the party's proposal for a jobs program and the need for a labor party, Allen endorsed the campaign and subscribed to the *Militant*. She thanked Trowe for coming by, pointing out that the discussion had been "a teaching moment for my grandsons" who were nearby listening in.

Join fight to put SWP on New Jersey ballot!

BY CANDACE WAGNER

UNION CITY, N.J. — Supporters of the Socialist Workers Party are demanding state officials certify Alyson Kennedy and Malcolm Jarrett for the state ballot in the November election.

On Aug. 10 the campaign completed filing its petitions. The first batch of 270, along with electors, were submitted July 27. The total is now 1,300 — 500 more than required for ballot status.

Given limitations imposed by the lockdown and other restrictions enacted by Gov. Philip Murphy during the pan-



Militant/Jacquie Henderson

From left, Anthony Stark, Shania Paulson and Socialist Workers Party campaigner Sergio Zambrana discuss campaign in Hutchinson, Minnesota. When Zambrana told them the party explains need to fight for workers control of production, Stark, a welder, said, "Workers on the job know what is unsafe and can work together to fix it." Stark and Paulson both signed to put SWP on the ballot.

demic — many of which continue — the SWP had asked for adjustments on the signature and filing requirements. The party didn't get a response until shortly before the filing deadline, denying the request and the campaign geared up to meet the requirements.

The campaign was informed Aug. 11 by Donna Barber, supervisor of Election Administration, of her decision not to place the SWP ticket on the ballot, saying it didn't make the deadline.

The party is calling on the governor to reverse that decision.

Support for the right of the SWP to be on the ballot is registered by the 1,300 people who signed petitions from all over the state and their signatures should be honored. The deepening economic crisis bearing down on working people demands the broadest debate and discussion in the 2020 elections.

A campaign press release on the filing, which included the SWP campaign platform, was run in full by Insider NJ, a well-known online news outlet.

Construction worker Osvaldo Rabelo signed after talking with Jarrett when he knocked on the door of an apartment Rabelo was repairing in Newark.

"I'm happy to see another party, another option," Rabelo said. In Puerto Rico, where he is from, "it is the same thing, we only have two parties. But we had a strong movement to get rid of the governor," referring to 15 days of mass protests last year that forced the resignation of Gov. Ricardo Rosselló.

"We need a leadership to take it further," Jarrett said. Roselló's replacement, Wanda Vázquez, is as dedicated to preserving the U.S. rulers' plunder of the island as Roselló was.

"Working people in the U.S. need to form our own party, a labor party rooted in building a union movement in every

workplace," Jarrett added.

He showed Rabelo *The Clintons' Anti-Working-Class Record* and *Are They Rich Because They're Smart?* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes. Jarrett said these books "explain that the working class needs to take power and make learning a lifetime experience, not the education we get today that serves to teach us obedience and passivity."

"They don't teach us to be creative or let us claim our history," Rabelo replied. "I like that you have books and a newspaper." He signed to put the party on the ballot and bought a subscription to the paper and both books.

To aid the fight to get on the ballot in New Jersey, contact the campaign headquarters at (551) 240-1512 or email: swpnewjersey@gmail.com.

'Workers acting together only way to get change'

BY JACQUIE HENDERSON

HUTCHINSON, Minn. — Socialist Workers Party campaigners have already collected 1,914 signatures by Aug. 11 toward their goal of 2,400, to put Kennedy and Jarrett on the ballot in this state.

Anthony Stark, a 26-year-old welder who lives in this town of 15,000, liked what campaigner Sergio Zambrana told him about how workers need to fight to take control of production out of the bosses' hands. "Workers on the job know what is unsafe and can work together to fix it," Stark said.

Zambrana described how he visited the picket line of 4,300 striking shipbuilders in Bath, Maine, a few weeks ago to show solidarity. "Different generations of workers are standing up to the company," Zambrana said. "The solidarity we brought from our co-workers

Join the Socialist Workers Party campaign in 2020!

Campaign for what you are *for*, not who you're against!

- ☐ I want to endorse the Socialist Workers Party ticket of Alyson Kennedy for president and Malcolm Jarrett for vice president.
- ☐ I want to join in campaigning or host a house meeting for the candidates. Please contact me.
- ☐ Here is my contribution of \$_____ to help spread the word. (Make checks to Socialist Workers National Campaign)
- ☐ Send me a 12-week subscription to the *Militant*, a socialist newsweekly. (\$5 enclosed, checks payable to the *Militant*.)

Send in along with your name, address, phone # and e-mail address to:
Socialist Workers Party 2020 Campaign, 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, NY, NY 10018. Tel: 347-871-0282 ✉ Email: socialistworkers2020@gmail.com

Endorse the Socialist Workers Party campaign



"I agree with the idea of a labor party. We need a real new party. The Socialist Workers Party campaign talks about a union in every workplace and workers having control of production. I tell people, 'if we don't stand together, we're going to fall.'"

— Felicia Allen
Smyrna, Tennessee



Militant/Rachele Fruit

Valerie Whitehead, center, signed to put SWP presidential ticket on ballot in Tennessee after campaigners Maggie Trowe, left, and James Harris came by her neighborhood in Nashville Aug. 6.

at Walmart was really appreciated.”

In Maplewood, SWP campaigner Dean Hazlewood discussed the economic and social crisis with teacher Pam McIntyre on her porch. “The capitalist ruling class has no solutions,” Hazlewood said. “Organizing millions in struggle, workers and farmers can gain confidence in our ability to take power out of the hands of the propertied rulers and organize society ourselves.”

“You are right about the crisis,” McIntyre replied. “And it is working people acting together that is the only thing that can change this.” McIntyre signed to get the working-class candidates on the ballot, subscribed to the *Militant* and got a copy of the book *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by Barnes.

“I like that you are here talking with us,” Jacob Van Gerpen, who services forklift batteries, told campaigner Tom Baumann at his door in Inver Grove Heights. “Some people are so far left or right that they don’t want to hear the other side.”

“We need to have civil discussion,”

See page 8 for the Socialist Workers Party campaign center nearest you

Baumann said. “That’s the only way working people can get the political clarity we need to move forward.”

Van Gerpen signed in support of the SWP being on the ballot.

Errin Donahue, a health care worker, caught up with Kevin Dwire and Arrin Hawkins walking down the street in Robbinsdale.

“Can I sign that petition?” she asked. “You just left my house and my husband said he liked what you told him about the protests against the killing of George Floyd. He said you are part of the protests, but oppose the violence at them. The destruction has put a lot of people out of business.”

“We can build a mass movement that is disciplined and effective to win demands for the arrest and prosecution of the police who killed Breonna Taylor and so many others,” Dwire said.

Dan Fein and Holly Harkness spoke

with Darryl Johnson, a 31-year-old construction worker, in Burnsville. “I like what you’re saying, but I can’t vote because of a felony charge. I spent eight months in Stillwater prison, although I was never convicted of anything,” he said.

“We oppose prisoners being denied rights,” Harkness told him. “They should have the right to vote and we are campaigning for that.”

Fein showed him the article on the front page of the *Militant* announcing that Pennsylvania prison officials had overturned their ban on a prisoner’s access to the paper, after the inmate subscriber and the working-class weekly fought it. “I’m glad about the victory. Prisoners should be able to read this paper,” Johnson said.



Militant/Nancy Boyasko

“Workers need a labor party rooted in building a union movement in every workplace,” SWP vice presidential candidate Malcolm Jarrett told construction worker Osvaldo Rabelo, right, in Newark, New Jersey. “I’m happy to see another party, another option,” Rabelo replied.

London bans China’s Huawei, looks for trade bloc with US

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON — In a reversal of its previous policy, the government in the U.K. banned mobile phone firms from buying parts from Chinese telecom giant Huawei beginning in 2021, and ordered those companies to eliminate all Huawei components from 5G networks by 2027.

The July 14 decision brings London’s foreign policy more in line with Washington, which is campaigning to blunt Beijing’s drive to become a serious economic and political rival and to block the Chinese rulers from increasing their military know-how through Huawei’s global expansion.

In January Prime Minister Boris Johnson approved Huawei’s involvement in the construction of the U.K.’s 5G network. Members of Parliament within Johnson’s own Conservative Party argued that London’s best interests lie in a closer trade bloc with Washington.

Negotiations between the two governments are underway. Both say a deal is unlikely before the U.S. elections in

November, as disputes remain over the U.S. bosses’ access to agricultural and pharmaceutical markets in the U.K., among other issues. Washington opposes the U.K. government’s tax on online purchases, which especially impacts companies like Amazon and Apple.

The Johnson government says its U-turn on Huawei was in response to U.S. sanctions on the company imposed in May. But the reasons are more fundamental.

The U.S. rulers see Beijing as a growing threat to the dominance they wrested with their victory in the second imperialist world war, and see Huawei’s expansion as a particular danger. Washington accuses the company of stealing trade secrets to “back engineer” U.S. products, of engaging in industrial espionage, and being linked to the Chinese government’s cyberwarfare programs. The U.S. rulers view Beijing’s efforts as part of circumventing Washington’s sanctions on Iran.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo

had spoken out against the Johnson government for its January decision.

Washington has already received backing in its campaign against Huawei from the governments of Australia, Canada and New Zealand. Along with the U.S. and U.K., they make up the “Five Eyes” international intelligence and security cooperation bloc.

The ban on Huawei is part of a shift in London’s policies to a more hostile stance toward Beijing. The British government now plans to deploy a new aircraft carrier in the South China Sea. And it has offered a fast-track to citizenship for 3 million Hong Kong residents after the Chinese rulers imposed sweeping security restrictions in Hong Kong aimed at crushing political opposition. Beijing has condemned both U.K. government moves.

These steps are a sea change from the relations established with Beijing by the former Conservative government led by David Cameron. In 2015 his chancellor, George Osborne, declared, “No economy in the west is as open to Chinese investment as the U.K.”

Earlier that year the U.K. government became the first major imperialist power to sign up for Beijing’s new Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. The Chinese rulers launched this international financial operation in 2016, seeking to establish a position as the primary lending choice for governments in Asia. Their goal is to buttress China’s Belt and Road Initiative, tying regional governments more closely to Beijing and dealing blows to the rival U.S.-backed World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

Cameron’s government also made deals for significant involvement by Chinese companies in nuclear power, finance, logistics and technology in the U.K.

A sharp economic downturn has accelerated trade and currency conflicts since governments worldwide imposed broad shutdowns on production and travel in response to the outbreak of coronavirus. This is intensifying fault lines between London and its post-Brexit EU rivals, as well as between the rulers of the various EU states themselves. All these factors work to push the British rulers to turn even more decisively toward Washington.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



August 28, 1995

HAVANA, Cuba — “Capitalism and social development have been, are, and will be eternally irreconcilable,” said Cuban president Fidel Castro here August 6 at the closing session of the “Cuba Lives” International Youth Festival.

The capitalist world of the 21st century “offers no future” for youth and working people, Castro told the delegates.

“There have been struggles in the United States itself,” Castro said, “which, it must be said, have resulted in a series of social gains: the struggle of the Black population for their rights, a historic battle; the struggles of national minorities; the struggles of the unemployed; the struggles of the poor; women’s struggle.”

Delegates stayed in the homes of Cuban families, participated in discussions and debates, and joined half a million people in a march August 5 in support of the Cuban revolution.



September 4, 1970

Aug. 29 will be warmly saluted by all opponents of the war in Vietnam and all fighters against imperialism everywhere in the world. The National Chicano Moratorium, and the local Moratoriums in Chicano communities across the country leading up to it, make the Chicanos the first of the oppressed minorities in the heartland of U.S. imperialism to organize a significant independent mass movement against the Vietnam war.

The Moratorium will greatly aid the development of other forms of mass, independent political action.

The Chicano Moratorium will be a concrete demonstration of solidarity between an oppressed national minority in the imperialist heartland and the oppressed peoples of Southeast Asia who are fighting the same system of racist oppression. Nothing can be more threatening to the rulers of the United States.



August 25, 1945

The bandits of American imperialism, drunk with power at the successful conclusion of their “war for democracy,” now seek to take the place of the Japanese imperialists as the exploiters and oppressors of the Chinese people.

After eight years of bitter struggle for the independence of their country, the Chinese people are ready to take their fate into their own hands. The bloody Kuomintang dictatorship of Chiang Kai-shek faces destruction.

China was the greatest single stake in the Pacific war. Wall Street is intent upon subjugating this great country and enslaving its people. That is the purpose of American intervention.

The American workers must proclaim their solidarity with the Chinese workers and peasants. From the ranks of organized labor a thunderous demand must go up: Hands off China! Down with imperialist intervention!

As crisis deepens, workers fight boss attacks on jobs, conditions

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Working people around the world are taking action on the shop floor and in the street to resist the propertied rulers' moves to deepen the exploitation of labor upon which their state power is based. The bosses' "solution" to the crisis wracking their capitalist system today, exacerbated by the ongoing pandemic, is to impose far-reaching job and pay cuts, plus speedup, on workers' backs.

Some of these fights are highlighted in this issue of the *Militant*. Packing-house workers in Nebraska are fighting against the bosses' push to work faster, standing shoulder to shoulder. These conditions have led to outbreaks of the virus in plants across the state and beyond, resulting in deaths.

Over 4,000 Machinists union members at the Bath Iron Works shipyard in Maine have been on strike since June 22, fighting boss demands to bring in ever more nonunion contract workers, threatening their jobs and livelihoods. A tentative contract agreement is being discussed and debated by strikers.

Over 1,000 longshoremen at the Port of Montreal launched an indefinite strike Aug. 10 over unsafe work schedules that force them to work 19 out of every 21 days.

These fights — and many more worldwide — are important examples of union action being taken to defend the interests of working people. They all need and deserve solidarity.

The crisis has hit the aviation industry hard — from Boeing and Airbus; air travel giants like American and British Airways; and airport workers, from ground crews to those at small shops in terminals.

Owners of both British Airways and London's Heathrow Airport are deepening their attacks on jobs, wages and working conditions. Dozens of workers organized by the Unite union protested against these attacks at Heathrow and other airports Aug. 10.

British Airways bosses want to cut over a quarter of their 42,000 staff. More than 6,000 employees have been pushed to apply for "voluntary redundancy." Letters were sent out Aug. 7 to workers telling them they've either been laid off or given a chance to be "fired and hired" under a new contract with pay cuts of up to 50%.

Heathrow Airport bosses are pushing permanent pay cuts of 25%. "The airport is using the Covid-19 pandemic," the Unite union said in response, "to cut pay in order to increase profits in the long-term."

A wave of strikes in Iran, begun by thousands of contract workers in oil and gas fields spread to some 22 industrial centers the first week of August.

After a three-month strike and nationwide protests, thousands of Nissan workers in Spain forced the bosses of the Japan-based auto giant Aug. 6 to back off for now their threats to close down. Nissan agreed it wouldn't shutter its factories in Barcelona for at least a year as well as not imposing any mandatory layoffs. Workers voted Aug. 6 to return to production.

In large factories and small plants, class tensions and skirmishes are on

the rise. Workers need a fighting union movement in every workplace.

More than 31 million people in the U.S. have been cast out of work by shutdowns. Most now face the loss of meager unemployment benefits or temporary pandemic relief payouts. They are being hung out to dry as the rulers' two parties, the Democrats and Republicans, maneuver for advantage in the looming 2020 elections, with disdain for the crisis workers, farmers and small proprietors confront today. Working people face evictions, car repossessions and mounting debt. Layoffs and job cuts announced by employers jumped by 54% in July, threatening to stall any economic upswing.

And grocery prices are soaring. According to government statistics, since February beef and veal prices have risen 20.2%, eggs by 10.4%, and poultry and pork by about 8.5%.

The streets of New York and many other major cities are a stark reminder that tens of thousands of restaurants and other small businesses are permanently closed. Since January, more than 3,600 companies have gone belly up, including a growing number of marquee corporations, like J.C. Penney, Whiting Petroleum, Chuck E. Cheese, Hertz and Lane Bryant.

In response to these conditions, struggles and protests by working people are on the rise.

Nebraska meatpackers speak out for job safety

Continued from front page

the state, and they claim they're doing all they can. They've put up plastic screen dividers, take workers' temperatures and send them home if they register too high, and give out masks.

"The measures that are put in place are to make the corporations look and feel good," Geraldine Waller, a worker with 30 years at Smithfield Foods in Crete, told a July 28 rally on the steps of the state Capitol here, but do little to protect workers' lives. The rally of 50 people included meatpackers, their families, officials of the Nebraska State AFL-CIO and other unions, and other supporters of workers' rights.

"The company won't slow the line down," Waller said. "Many times we have to contact the union to get it back to workable speeds. We are human beings, not robots, and not disposable."

Waller's vivid description shows why workers at every plant need a union and to press for a fight for workers control of production and safety.

She noted that in the last 30 years the workforce at the Crete plant has nearly tripled to some 2,300 workers, but the physical workspace has only doubled. "The plant was overcrowded before COVID-19," Waller said, with "hundreds of people working shoulder to shoulder."

"Ventilation is horrible in the entire plant, with our locker rooms being the worst," she said. In the summer they are "literally 110 degrees at 5:30 a.m. when we start work."

Safety glasses "fog up, making it unsafe to work with knives and hooks," she said. And the plastic dividers the company installed force workers to cut meat

Montreal port workers strike over unsafe schedules



Militant/John Steele

MONTREAL — Some 1,125 port workers, members of Local 375 of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, went on strike here Aug. 10 in an important labor battle for all working people. The key issue is exhausting schedules that force workers to work 19 days straight out of 21. This makes it increasingly difficult to work safely and wreaks havoc with any semblance of family life. The strikers are also fighting against an Aug. 3 decision by the port bosses to cut overtime rates for afternoon, night and weekend shifts.

Workers have been without a contract with the Maritime Employers Association since December 2018. The decision to call "unlimited" strike action followed the bosses' refusal to budge after a 40-hour strike on July 2 and a pair of four-day strikes that started July 27. The Montreal port is the second largest in Canada, servicing all of eastern Canada and beyond.

Maritime bosses have called for Ottawa to intervene, which could impose compulsory arbitration. The union has rejected this, saying it's stacked against workers. Solidarity messages should be sent to Syndicat des débardeurs, 7020 Notre Dame East, Montreal, H1N 3L6. Tel: (514) 255-8868. Fax: (514) 255-8211.

— JOHN STEELE

in a tight, confined space, "limiting our movement even more" and making work more dangerous.

A majority of meatpacking workers in Nebraska are Latino immigrants, as well as refugees from Myanmar, Somalia and South Sudan.

Nebraska state Sen. Tony Vargas — whose South Omaha district includes many meatpacking workers and the plants where they work — had tried to get a bill heard to impose more regulations on packinghouses. It didn't make it to the floor of the legislature, but senators did agree to schedule a hearing for workers and others to testify on the issues. They limited attendance to 20 people at a time.

State Sen. Matt Hansen said the hearing would "be a start" that the legislature would address "at some point in the future."

Workers say 'things have to change'

On Aug. 6, over 40 meatpackers and others came down to testify at the Capitol about their working conditions.

"Nobody comes to replace face masks, because by 10 in the morning, the face mask is all wet and covered in blood," meat plant worker Araizario Moreno told the hearing. She was fired from JBS Swift in Grand Island after being injured on the job.

Christian Munoz, who works at the Tyson plant in Dakota City, said he came to testify on behalf of his father, who had worked side by side with him on the line and who died of COVID-19.

Eric Reeder, president of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 293, which represents many of the state's

20,000 meatpackers, told the hearing that meatpacking bosses have disciplined hundreds of its members for not being able to keep up with the way the bosses speed up the line.

"Two workers are expected to do the work that four used to do. The meat employers need to hire more workers, to slow down the line and put more distance between work stations," Reeder said.

John Hansen, president of the Nebraska Farmers Union, told the committee "that the farm community wants workers protected for both economic and moral reasons," and addressed the workers at the hearing, saying, "We are going to be with you to find a way to be sure your workplace is safe."

This *Militant* worker-correspondent, a retired rail worker, a union member for 60 years and a member of the Socialist Workers Party, also spoke. I said that workers can't rely on the government to ensure safe working conditions.

"Workers need to have the power to shut down production in face of any threat to safety," I said. "We need to fight for workers control over production and safety. We need a union at every workplace."

"Work can be done safely, but only when workers are in charge of deciding what is necessary to stop the spread of coronavirus and injuries and deaths on the job. In the course of their fight, I believe we'll need our own party, a labor party, to help lead this struggle," I said, "and so we can fight to take political power out of the hands of the bosses and organize a workers and farmers government."

Sugar workers in Iran on strike since June over unpaid wages

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Thousands of factory workers at the Haft Tappeh Sugar Cane Company in Iran have been on strike since June 12 demanding months of back wages.

The strike is the latest in a number of walkouts Haft Tappeh workers have been forced to conduct to get paid over the last five years. They are organizing marches and rallies to voice their demands. The plant is located in Shush, in the oil-rich Khuzestan province near the border with Iraq.

In recent weeks, their battle has been joined by strikes and mobilizations by workers in Iran's natural gas fields, coal mines, government offices and beyond who are also demanding back pay, as well as an end to unhealthy and dangerous job conditions. News of these other battles has been largely suppressed in Iran, with little if any mention in the bourgeois news media.

The Haft Tappeh sugar cane workers strike, however, has become national news.

The company, previously government-owned, was privatized in 2015. One of the current owners, Omid Asadbeigi, is now in and out of jail on charges of organizing "unauthorized foreign exchange manipulations." The company's assets have been frozen by the regime. The size of the strike, the perseverance of the workers, and the rulers' fear that it could be generalized are putting pressure on the capitalist government.

According to the Iranian Students New Agency, three members of Iran's parliament traveled to meet with the striking workers Aug. 1. ISNA reported that Deputy Ali Khazarian told a workers rally that "as a first urgent step, the parliament must force the government to pay the wages owed to the workers." The government must then remove the new management, he said.

The semiofficial Mehr News Agency reported that another deputy, Ahmad



Worker speaks at Aug. 1 rally of some 4,000 on strike at Haft Tappeh sugar complex in Shush. Strikers are demanding months of back pay and safer job conditions. To his right, in white shirts, are three members of Iran's parliament.

Naderi, said, "It is not becoming of us, because of privatization, to hold off three months back pay to more than 5,000 workers, declaring that the government doesn't have the budget for it."

All major dailies and new agencies have voiced support for the workers. These include Fars and Tasnim news agencies, which are formally independent but have links with the Revolutionary Guard Corps.

While the members of parliament were talking with the workers, a representative of the strikers spoke to Fars News Agency on the side, with other workers gathered around him. What he said was recorded, and Fars broadcast a video clip the next day. The workers representative, whose name wasn't given, spoke of the hardships the workers and their families are confronting in the face of rising inflation. He said this has been going on for the last four or five years.

"In the name of the 'private sector,' they are robbing the entire country," the worker said. "All they are giving us are promises." The workers — not managers or state officials — are pro-

ducing the sugar for the country, he said. Yet the stomachs of their children and families are empty. He noted that only after the strike had been underway for 49 days had members of parliament come to Shush.

The faction in the regime associated with the Revolutionary Guard and Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei is seeking to turn to its own advantage the attention the strike has won. It hopes to deal further blows to its rivals linked with President Hassan Rouhani, who have been tied to corrupt privatization deals and resulting layoffs and unpaid wages.

Hojjatislam Mousavi Fard, Khamenei's representative in the Khuzestan province, spoke to a gathering of Haft Tappeh sugar workers Aug. 8, saying that "the elected president of Iran, who has revenues from oil and other resources under his control,

must solve the country's problems." He blamed the province's "weak" governor, appointed by Rouhani, for "factory after factory being shut down," as well as the acute water shortage that afflicts working people in the region, especially farmers.

Mousavi Fard asked workers for a three-month grace period to resolve the issues at the factory. The workers' unpaid wages and other

rights must be addressed, he said. And the Haft Tappeh company must either be returned to the government, or "powerful organs, such as the Revolutionary Guard," must take it over.

In parliamentary elections in February, Khamenei's backers succeeded in disqualifying most candidates who look to Rouhani and won an overwhelming majority.

Meanwhile, more than two months into their strike, the Haft Tappeh workers, whatever the political maneuvering of Iran's divided rulers, remain determined to win their back wages and other demands.

Revolution, Counterrevolution and War in Iran:
Social and political roots of workers' protests that swept Iran in 2017-2018
by Steve Clark
Read online or download file for printing at www.themilitant.com



Belarus protests erupt over presidential election results

BY ROY LANDERSEN

Tens of thousands in Belarus took to the streets and built barricades in Minsk, the capital, and many more defied a sweeping security crackdown across the country, to protest

the sham reelection Aug. 9 of President Alexander Lukashenko. They chanted "Freedom!" and "Long live Belarus!" This is the biggest political crisis in Belarus' post-Soviet history.

Thousands of mostly young people were arrested nationwide. One was killed and dozens injured as riot police used tear gas, rubber bullets, truncheons, and, by the third night, live fire, to suppress the demonstrations. Two days after the polls, Svetlana Tikhanovskaya, the opposition candidate who had claimed victory, was forced to leave for Lithuania.

Officials claimed Lukashenko had won 80% of the vote. Election monitor group Golos estimated it was Tikhanovskaya who had won that proportion.

After the Stalinized Soviet Union disintegrated in 1991, the new rulers in Belarus established close ties with the new, dominant Russian government next door.

Lukashenko, a collective farm manager before Belarus gained independence, came to power in 1994. He has ruled the East European country of 9.5 million ever since, maintaining power by suppressing political rights. Lukashenko rode out earlier protests after fraudulent elections in 2010. Years of economic stagnation have now turned into a recession crisis for working people during the pandemic.

In the months before these elections, Lukashenko jailed his two main bour-

geois rivals, including Sergei Tikhanovskaya, the candidate's husband, and forced a third to flee the country. These patently political detentions sparked the first street protests.

Tikhanovskaya stepped in to run against Lukashenko after the May arrest of her husband, galvanizing opposition to the autocratic regime. Her political program focused on free, fair elections; freeing political prisoners; and ending the absolute powers that marked Lukashenko's presidency.

People lined up for miles to sign a petition to get Tikhanovskaya on the ballot. Despite a growing police crackdown her largest rally drew over 60,000 in Minsk, with tens of thousands in smaller cities.

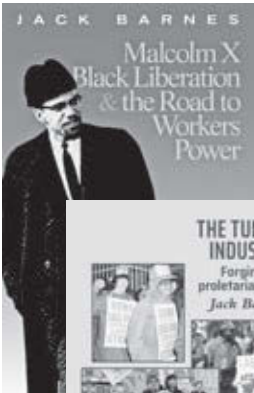
Two days after declaring victory, Lukashenko had Tikhanovskaya escorted out of the country together with her campaign manager, Maria Moroz. With her husband behind bars, nine members of her staff were detained as hostages. Only Moroz was freed.

On YouTube, Tikhanovskaya said she had been forced to make "a very hard decision" to join her children in Lithuania, where they had been sent to safety before the elections.

"If Lukashenko won 80%, why does he need riot police, rubber bullets and water [cannons]?" protester, Anna Vitushko told the Aug. 11 *Christian Science Monitor*. "They can cheat a few percent of the population, but they can't cheat the entire country."

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‘American workers: Stop your rulers throttling our revolution’

Revolutionary Continuity: Birth of the Communist Movement, 1918-1922 by Farrell Dobbs is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for August. This is the second of two volumes tracing the early history of the communist movement in the U.S. Dobbs emerged as a young leader of the Minneapolis Teamster strikes in 1934, then led the Teamster campaign to organize a quarter of a million over-the-road drivers in the Midwest. He was Socialist Workers Party national secretary from 1953 to 1972, and the party's presidential candidate from 1948 to 1960. The excerpt is from "Letter to American Workers" by Russian revolutionary leader V.I. Lenin, written in August 1918. Copyright © 1983 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY V.I. LENIN

[A]t the present time the American revolutionary workers have to play an exceptionally important role as uncompromising enemies of American imperialism — the freshest, strongest and latest in joining in the world-wide slaughter of nations for the division of capitalist profits. At this very moment, the American multimillionaires, these



Painting of 1775 Battle of Lexington by William Barnes Wollen shows “the shot heard around the world” that began the American War of Independence. Lenin said this revolutionary war set an example worldwide.

modern slaveowners, have turned an exceptionally tragic page in the bloody history of bloody imperialism by giving their approval — whether direct or indirect, open or hypocritically concealed, makes no difference — to the armed expedition launched by the brutal Anglo-Japanese imperialists for the purpose of throttling the first socialist republic.

The history of modern, civilised America opened with one of those great, really liberating, really revolutionary wars of which there have been so few compared to the vast number of wars of conquest which, like the present imperialist war, were caused by squabbles among kings, landowners or capitalists over the division of usurped lands or ill-gotten gains. That was the war the American people waged against the British robbers who oppressed America and held her in colonial slavery, in the same way as these “civilised” bloodsuckers are still oppressing and holding in colonial slavery hundreds of millions of people in India, Egypt, and all parts of the world.

About 150 years have passed since then. Bourgeois civilisation has borne all its luxurious fruits. America has taken first place among the free and educated nations in level of development of the productive forces of collective human endeavour, in the utilisation of machinery and of all the wonders of modern engineering. At the same time, America has become one of the foremost countries in regard to the depth of the abyss which lies between the handful of arrogant multimillionaires who wallow in filth and luxury, and the millions of

working people who constantly live on the verge of pauperism. The American people, who set the world an example in waging a revolutionary war against feudal slavery, now find themselves in the latest, capitalist stage of wage-slavery to a handful of multimillionaires, and find themselves playing the role of hired thugs who, for the benefit of wealthy scoundrels, throttled the Philippines in 1898 on the pretext of “liberating” them, and are throttling the Russian Socialist Republic in 1918 on the pretext of “protecting” it from the Germans.

The four years of the imperialist slaughter of nations, however, have not passed in vain. The deception of the people by the scoundrels of both robber groups, the British and the German, has been utterly exposed by indisputable and obvious facts. The results of the four years of war have revealed the general law of capitalism as applied to war between robbers for the division of spoils: the richest and strongest profited and grabbed most, while the weakest were utterly robbed, tormented, crushed and strangled.

The British imperialist robbers were the strongest in number of “colonial slaves.” The British capitalists have not lost an inch of “their” territory (i.e., territory they have grabbed over the centuries), but they have grabbed all the German colonies in Africa, they have grabbed Mesopotamia and Palestine, they have throttled Greece, and have begun to plunder Russia.

The German imperialist robbers were the strongest in organisation and discipline of “their” armies, but weaker in re-

gard to colonies. They have lost all their colonies, but plundered half of Europe and throttled the largest number of small countries and weak nations. ...

The American multimillionaires were, perhaps, richest of all, and geographically the most secure. They have profited more than all the rest. They have converted all, even the richest, countries into their tributaries. They have grabbed hundreds of billions of dollars. And every dollar is sullied with filth: the filth of the secret treaties between Britain and her “allies,” between Germany and her vassals, treaties for the division of the spoils, treaties of mutual

“aid” for oppressing the workers and persecuting the internationalist socialists. Every dollar is sullied with the filth of “profitable” war contracts, which in every country made the rich richer and the poor poorer. And every dollar is stained with blood — from that ocean of blood that has been shed by the ten million killed and twenty million maimed in the great, noble, liberating and holy war to decide whether the British or the German robbers are to get most of the spoils, whether the British or the German thugs are to be *foremost* in throttling the weak nations all over the world.

While the German robbers broke all records in war atrocities, the British have broken all records not only in the number of colonies they have grabbed, but also in the subtlety of their disgusting hypocrisy. This very day, the Anglo-French and American bourgeois newspapers are spreading, in millions and millions of copies, lies and slander about Russia, and are hypocritically justifying their predatory expedition against her on the plea that they want to “protect” Russia from the Germans! ...

The workers of the whole world, no matter in what country they live, greet us, sympathise with us, applaud us for breaking the iron ring of imperialist ties, of sordid imperialist treaties, of imperialist chains — for breaking through to freedom, and making the heaviest sacrifices in doing so — for, as a socialist republic, although torn and plundered by the imperialists, keeping *out* of the imperialist war and raising the banner of peace, the banner of socialism for the whole world to see.

August

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The Militant August 24, 2020



ALYSON KENNEDY

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY STATEMENT

Fight for a union on every job site



MALCOLM JARRETT

Continued from front page

taking place today by working people to push back growing attacks by the bosses and their government.

Donald Trump and Joe Biden, the presidential candidates of the bosses' two major parties, defend the rule of the propertied class responsible for the deep social and economic crisis confronting working people today. The drop in production worldwide caused by the crisis of capitalism and exacerbated by the coronavirus lockdowns imposed by governments at all levels, has led bosses to slash jobs, cut wages and attack working conditions.

Liberals and middle-class radicals of all stripes say workers have to subordinate everything to removing Donald Trump from office, but Biden is just as staunch a defender of the bosses and capitalist rule.

SWP candidates are part of the daily struggles workers are waging on the job to change the conditions we face. My campaign says workers need to organize a fighting union movement in *every* workplace, a movement that will provide the strongest foundation for building our own party, a labor party. A party that organizes solidarity with every labor battle and mobilizes support for the fight against cop brutality, for women's emancipation and against the predatory wars the U.S. rulers inflict on peoples worldwide.

As working-class struggles deepen, a labor party would lead millions on a course to replace capitalist rule with a workers and farmers government. This new state power will provide the mightiest weapon possible to end class exploitation, the op-

pression of Blacks and women, and every form of human degradation inherited from millennia of class-divided society.

We say workers need to use our unions to wrest control of production from the bosses. This is a pressing necessity today as employers force millions to toil in crowded conditions that hasten the spread of coronavirus and at ever-faster line speeds. The bosses organize all aspects of production for one purpose only — profits, disdainful of the effects on workers, communities near their mines, mills and plants, and the environment.

All work can be performed safely. *No* worker has to die on the job. But that is only possible if workers fight to take control of production and safety into our own hands.

To advance that struggle we need jobs. My campaign urges workers and our unions to fight for a government-funded public work program to put millions to work at union-scale pay — to build urgently needed medical facilities, schools where children and school workers can study and work safely, to build affordable housing and much more.

Through working-class struggle millions of us will be transformed, discovering our real capacities and self worth. This is reflected in the explosion of interest in books about working-class history and politics today. We can take political power and join with millions worldwide to make a future built on human solidarity.

Join the SWP in fighting for our right to be on the ballot and in campaigning for its action program — the only alternative worth fighting *for* in 2020.

Bath strikers discuss tentative contract deal

Continued from front page

General Dynamics, one of the largest military contractors in the country. Bath Iron Works, with 6,800 workers, 4,300 of whom are in Local S6, builds destroyers for the Navy.

One thing that riled strikers was the fact that General Dynamics executives were pulling down huge salaries, while demanding cuts on workers at Bath. The bosses thought they could count on pitting newer workers — they hired 1,800 last year — against veteran union members. They were wrong. Everyone on the picket line comments on the unity inside the union in deciding to strike, enthusiastically preparing for it and in staffing the picket lines.

The proposed agreement summary also reports the bosses backed off from another of their most serious attacks on the workers, seeking to undercut seniority. This protection remains in job bids, shift assignments, overtime and elsewhere.

The company did get some concessions. Health care costs will go up, but less than bosses demanded. The “last, best” company offer had a 5% annual increase, but the proposal now is for a 4% increase in the first

year and 3% in each of the next two.

“The agreement sounds acceptable,” Bill Cullivan, a sheet metal mechanic, told the *Militant*. “BIW should have made this offer in the first place. We will picket up until the 23rd, when they count the votes.”

“We did take a hit,” he said, pointing to the lost wages during the strike. “But we had to do it. We couldn't live with what they were proposing.”

One factor, workers pointed out, was the widespread solidarity they got from unions, small businesses and individual workers in Bath and far beyond.

On Aug. 10, when weekly strike pay was handed out at the Bath Senior Center, there were people from the Bath Area Food Bank and Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program giving out provisions, as well as box lunches and fresh produce. Midcoast Maine Community Action was coordinating help to those needing it on rent and utility bills. And volunteers from Dogwill, a food bank for pets, were there too.

This is an important labor battle, with stakes for all working people. Go and join their picket lines. Send solidarity and contributions to IAM Local S6, 722 Washington St., Bath, ME 04530.

After Pennsylvania prison ban is revoked, Florida prison bars ‘Militant’

Continued from front page

and overwhelmingly won on appeal. Florida is the state where the *Militant* has the largest subscription base among workers behind bars.

Overcrowding in California prisons has been widely reported in media across the country. In fact, in 2011 the U.S. Supreme Court ordered California to reduce its prison population by 33,000.

The *Militant* article also reports that 20 prisoners who have COVID-19 had announced they were going on a hunger strike to better the conditions they face.

One clause in the long list of reasons officials at the penitentiary point to for the impoundment is new. The impoundment form was revised in June, and for the first time includes the phrase “organized prison protest” as something that is “dangerously inflammatory.”

But there have been prisoner protests for decades, widely reported in the press. In fact, Florida authori-

ties suppressed issues of the *Militant* that covered the hunger strike organized by California inmates in 2013 against brutal solitary confinement. On appeal the ban was overturned by the Department of Corrections Literature Review Committee. Other *Militant* news articles on prisoner protests that prison officials challenged have also been delivered to inmate subscribers after successful appeals.

Do they now think any coverage of a protest by prisoners — of any kind — has to be suppressed?

David Goldstein, the *Militant's* attorney, contacted the Literature Review Committee and informed them the paper intends to appeal the impoundment. The committee in response said the impoundment is tentatively set for review on Aug. 13. If the committee doesn't overturn it, the *Militant* can appeal.

“Inmates across the country, like workers everywhere, are deeply concerned about the way their living

Explosion fuels protests

Continued from front page

di Alame told the *Washington Post*. “They are stealing everyone's money, stealing people's rights.”

Triggered at first by the government's imposition of a tax hike last year, people of all faiths have joined protests for months. Demands raised by demonstrators have widened to include jobs, relief from rising hardship, an end to Tehran's interference in the country and for the fall of the government.

Hezbollah-organized thugs have been at the forefront of brutal assaults on protesters but failed to deter thousands from joining the actions, including from Shiite areas.

Some 2,750 metric tons of highly explosive ammonium nitrate, stored unsecured at the port of Beirut for over six years, blew up near densely populated areas of the city. The blast gutted neighborhoods, forcing up to 250,000 from their homes. The entire port was destroyed, along with the country's main wheat silos.

Customs officials say that since 2014 they have written six times to the government asking how to dispose of the volatile material. They never got a reply.

Hezbollah has utilized the Beirut port to receive weapon shipments from its sponsor in Tehran. It bases missiles that target Israel in population centers across southern Lebanon, claiming this protects the largely Shiite population there. On Aug. 7 Nasrallah threatened that anyone blaming Hezbollah for the explosion would “start a battle” that only he would win.

The capitalist regime in Iran has fought over decades to extend its counterrevolutionary influence across the region. One of its main tools has been Hezbollah, which it arms and helps finance. Tehran claims to defend the interests of Shiite Muslims, but in fact the regime advances the Iranian capitalist rulers' predatory interests against rival Arab regimes and Israel.

Hezbollah and Tehran-organized militias intervened in neighboring Syria to help save the dictatorial regime of Bashar al-Assad after a popular uprising for political rights and a subsequent civil war threatened to topple his rule. Tehran's gains in Syria, coupled with its influence in the governments of Iraq and Lebanon, give the Iranian rulers land access to much of the Middle East and missile emplacements aimed at Israel.

The Israel Defense Forces had carried out airstrikes on Syrian military bases where Hezbollah units operate just a day before the Beirut explosion.

Deepening political crisis in Lebanon

Following the collapse of the Lebanese currency on money markets in May, working people have had the value of their wages slashed as prices soared. Inflation stood at 20% in June. Growing numbers face hunger, recurrent power outages and a daily battle to survive.

The crisis in Lebanon takes place in a region roiled by conflicts between Tehran, Ankara, Riyadh and other competing capitalist governments from Washington to Moscow seeking economic, political and military advantage. Emmanuel Macron, the president of France — the former colonial power in Lebanon — visited Beirut Aug. 6 pledging aid and a road to reinforce French influence.

“We don't want any government to help us,” Mahmoud Rifai, who is unemployed, told Reuters at the Aug. 8 protest. “The money will just go into the pockets of our leaders.”

and work conditions affect the fact they might catch coronavirus,” *Militant* editor John Studer, said Aug. 11. “They seek control over those conditions to protect their health and safety.”

“We support these efforts and insist there is no reason they should be denied news reporting on this issue. Workers behind bars have the right to follow news and politics as they choose,” Studer said. “This is protected by the Constitution.”

Studer asked all those concerned about the rights of prisoners and of the press to join in urging the Literature Review Committee to overturn the impoundment.

Send your letter to Dean Peterson, Literature Review Committee, Florida Department of Corrections, 501 South Calhoun Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399 or via email at Allen.Peterson@fdc.myflorida.com, with a copy to the *Militant*.